

GIRLS WELL GOWNED

Clothes for the Children
Charming This Year.

WHITE AND BROWN EFFECTS

Simplicity the Watchword in Small
Folks' Modes.

Directoire Fashions Modified to Suit the Needs of Very Young Wearers—While the Accepted Thing for Very Small Girls—Attractive Frocks of Linen, Pique and Wool—For Party Gowns the Sheer Lingerie Stuff Held Undisputed Sway—All Kinds of Waist Lines—Dresses for the Schoolgirl—Directoire Styles Full of Excellent Possibilities for Slim Figures.

The groupings have no monopoly of attractive frocks this season. Clothes for children, big and little, and for those girls in their teens who already resent being ranked with children, though their



BLUE CLOTH.

débutante days still lie years ahead of them, are more than usually charming this winter. Many of the ideas modish for the elders fit into childish requirements very effectively, and the beauty of the materials and colorings benefits the maker of children's clothes, although of



BLUE CASHMERE.

course many of the loveliest stuffs are totally inappropriate for child use. American children are, on the whole, well dressed nowadays. There was a time when they were almost universally overdressed, but there has been an en-



WHITE PIQUE.

couraging development of good sense or good taste or a something which combines both, and though money may be spent lavishly upon the small children of the rich and those same small children may be pampered and indulged to a degree justifying much of the foreign criticism, the fact remains that the children



LINGERIE PARTY FROCK FOR SMALL GIRLS AND ONE FOR AN OLDER GIRL OF WHITE MOUSSELINE LACE AND BLUE SILK.

are as a rule dressed more attractively than English children and in better taste than the children of the French, who, despite their traditional instinct for tasteful dress, seldom succeed in dressing their children childishly on festive occasions.

One hardly knows where to begin in a discussion of clothes for the juniors. For the very small girls white is the accepted thing, and perhaps there is no great



WHITE WOOL.

variety and novelty within the necessarily circumscribed limitations, but as soon as the little lady graduates into colors her wardrobe begins to offer more variety if not greater daintiness.

There are mothers who dress their daughters entirely in white even through these years—white pique, white linen, white wool, white lawn, batiste and mull—and the fact is a pretty one, but impractical for any one whose purse is not well filled. The supply in such a case must be enormous, since white that is not immaculate is distressing, and the normal child is not likely to keep her white frock immaculate very long at a time, so the changes must be frequent.

A nurse who had for years taken care of the two little girls of a family whose income was but moderate obtained last spring a place as head nurse in a very wealthy family where there was an only child, a little girl of 6. The writer met

the nurse a few weeks later and she overflowed with news of the ways and means in multimillionaire households.

"Miss Marjory wears nothing but white, ma'am," she said. "I was that amazed the day I got there I could hardly look as if I was used to such families. Mrs. says to me: 'Of course you'll be responsible for Miss Marjory's clothes. The list is here. As things wear out you will report and I will cross them off the list and provide new. The dress frocks are listed by themselves, but you'll see that there are five dozen play frocks and please use them in order so that the same ones will not be in the laundry every week.'"

"Five dozen white play frocks, ma'am!—and me used to choosing between seven dresses!"

But this is the sort of thing that is outside of ordinary experience, and it is for the average reader that to-day's sketches and notes have been collected.

The line of practical little dresses in



CORDUROY AND EMBROIDERED CASHMERE.

serviceable pique and linen is apparently inexhaustible and many of the models attain a certain dressy air through the fineness of their details, though simplicity is the watchword here as elsewhere in the sphere of tasteful child clothes. In the line the pique and linen models are all of the simplest one-piece Russian affairs or belted blouses and skirt combinations usually joined permanently by a belt of

the material or of embroidery, though some models have the skirts buttoning to the waists.

Semi-military effects in heavy embroidery and buttons, such as have been used for certain smart blouses designed for grownups, are introduced with excellent effect down the fronts of some little one-piece frocks in white pique or heavy white linen, and pretty jumpers of linen or pique have front panels hand embroidered and buttonholed scalloped edging cuffs and collars.

This embroidered scallop is one of the favorite devices of the designers for giving a touch of daintiness to an otherwise plain play frock, and whether the trimming is used in white on color, in self-color or in color on white it never fails of effect. The soft dull blue and rose tones in linen make charming jumpers or frocks, with collars and cuffs buttonholed in white, and the string color and khaki linens are both smart and serviceable trimmed in this way or with the buttonholing in dark brown.

Brown is, by the way, more popular in children's clothing this winter than it has been in many years, and one sees many small girls on the street in coats and mushroom shaped beaver or felt hats of warm brown, the rather dark though not sombre shades with a dash of yellow in them being especially liked. There are some extremely pretty little dresses in brown among the wool models shown by exclusive outfitters for children, and if the shade chosen has warmth and brightness as well as softness the color seems quite as childish as the more familiar blues.

Two of the dresses pictured here were in brown, one of soft cashmere, the other of cloth, and both were in the same medium tobacco shade. The cashmere jumper was made up on the lines familiar in linen, with scalloped edges embroidered in a very light brown that was almost an ivory, though it had a warmer tinge, and the belt was in the same light brown. The other model had a heavily embroidered collar and a sash girde for its only trimming notes.

In the soft dull blues and the rose shades there are delightful wool frocks, often trimmed with black and white—piping or buttonhole loops or buttons of black taffeta or satin, and folds, collars, chemisettes, &c., of white pique. All white wool in fine serge, broadcloth or cashmere, preferably the serge, is a favorite with the designers, and here again we find piping, buttons and simulated buttonholes of satin, an echo from the trimming fads of the older folk.

The white serge model included among the pictures is a particularly smart one despite its simplicity and would be attractive in more serviceable coloring as

made up in these materials and are warm and durable.

In our steam heated houses, however, the cotton and linen materials with warm underwear beneath are quite warm enough for children and have the advantage of laundering, so that they may be kept fresh. For the street heavy, warm coats solve the problem, and after baby days these coats now are of somewhat plain character, the quality of the material and possibly the touch of fur in the trimming providing elegance rather than any excessive elaboration.

In party frocks for the little girls the sheer lingerie stuffs hold undisputed sway, and one finds the tendencies of the modes for grown folk reflected in modified form among the frocks for wee folk. A short Empire waist line makes its appearance in some of the very prettiest little frocks, sometimes indicated merely by a sash loosely confining a straight one-piece frock at this short line or introduced more definitely in a waist and skirt arrangement, as in one of the models illustrated here in which the sash of liberty runs around the short waist under straps of insertion, suggesting wide banding.

The straight loose model with its long tucked sleeves is much more attractive in the frocks than in the sketch because of the exquisite fineness of materials and delicate lines of exquisitely dainty hand embroidery running from throat to hem between lines of Valenciennes insertion.

The long close sleeves appear in many of the most exquisite models, but are singularly unchildish, and though grownups have performed accepted them it is surely not necessary for the small children to put up with them.

The short waisted line with scarf girde is used for some very pretty and childish wool frocks as well as for lingerie models, the frock of light blue broadcloth pictured here being a particularly successful instance of this arrangement.

The long French waist, though not in its exaggerated form, is still much used, and the natural waist line is in evidence in many models, so there is variety from which to choose and the child's figure may be considered.

When it comes to frocks for the older schoolgirl, the girl in her early teens, the horizon widens, for here many materials are in order which would be out of place for the little girl. As the little frocks must first of all look childish, so these other frocks must first of all look girlish; and if girls all had the good sense to appreciate this fact or all had mothers with taste and wisdom enough to understand this law and enforce it we should be spared some lamentable sights.

Unfortunately one cannot say of these older girls, as of the American children, that they are on the whole well and appropriately dressed nowadays, and the aping of grownup fashions, the adoption of exaggerated fads and follies in clothes which one sees among young girls leads one to wonder what the mothers can have in their heads to replace the space normally occupied by good sense.

And yet one does see a host of charmingly dressed schoolgirls, and the shops and work rooms are full of pretty frocks for them. The simple Directoire frocks shorn of their extravagances present excellent possibilities for the slim, undeveloped girlish figure, and pretty street models in soft wool with simple trimming, straight skirts, short waists and sash girdles are numerous among the models

The Alphabet in a Sentence.

From Home Notes.

The following is the shortest sentence containing all the letters of the alphabet: Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs.

Forsythe

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